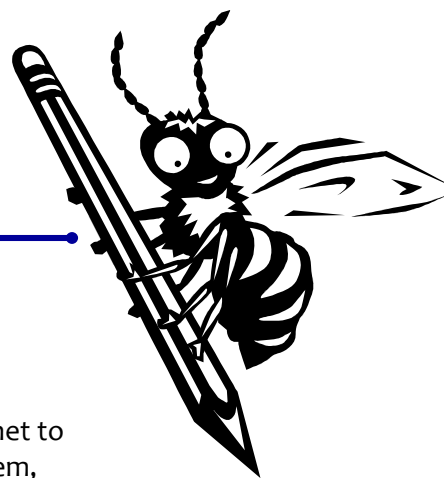


Youth Services Notes



May 31, 2010, Issue 20



We Give Books

We Give Books www.wegivebooks.org/ is a free website that enables anyone with access to the Internet to put books in the hands of children who don't have them, simply by reading online.

Choose

First, get started by choosing the literacy organization your own online reading will support. Choose **Room to Read**, for example, to help support libraries for young people around the world. Select the NEA Foundation's **Books Across America** program to help stock libraries in need across the United States. You can even support community-based campaigns hosted by local school districts or nonprofits. One of the aims of **We Give Books** is to encourage the conversations with your child that will better ensure he or she becomes a life-long giver. As you consider the non-profit organizations from which you can choose, take time to talk through the goals of each charity and your reasons for selecting the one you do. As long as you're a member, you can support as many campaigns as you like. We Give Books even keeps track of the books you've donated to each campaign for you.

Read

With your literacy campaign selected, it's time to read. Next, select a title from our ever-growing library of great children's books and start reading online with a child in your life. Each time you read a book online, you help give a brand-new hardcover or paperback book from the Penguin and Dorling Kindersley library to the campaign you've selected. Read as many books as you like, as many times as you like. Every campaign has its own donation goal. Once a campaign you've supported reaches its goal, you and your child will receive a personalized letter of thanks for your effort. We'll be adding new books each month to We Give Books. If you're a member, we'll send you an email automatically to tell you when new books arrive. Books at We Give Books are always free. And you and your child can read your favorite titles as often as you like, any time you like.

Share

Your reading at We Give Books helps share books with young people who need them. It also helps the great non-profit organizations with whom we've joined forces to support these young people.

If you like We Give Books, please spread the word. As a member, you can learn more about the importance of early reading and about the great literacy campaigns supported by We Give Books. If you like, you can also create reading groups, community reading-a-thons, or giving drives.

Your reading – and your giving – can be as social or independent as you want.

Taken from <http://www.wegivebooks.org/>

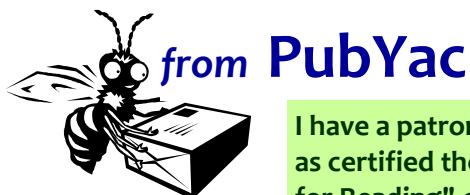
Points of Interest

Summer Reading Program Resources

are available for downloading from the Library of Virginia's Virginia Public Library Extranet

- ☒ Video Clips
- ☒ Radio announcement
- ☒ Music and lyrics
- ☒ Clip art

The **American Red Cross (ARC)** and the **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** have partnered with the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) to help support the library programs in your communities. Both organizations have a strong "water" emphasis and will conduct FREE programs at your library. To find an American Red Cross chapter near you, go to: www.redcross.org. Click here to see information from ARC showing many of the Water Safety Presentations, storytime offerings, and educational resource kits available. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locations near you may be found at: www.corpslakes.us. Click here to see information about the "Lake and Library" print kits that are available. There are also interactive stories and games on-line at: www.bobber.info



Paws to Reading

I have a patron who is a dog breeder. She is in the process of having 2 of her pets registered as certified therapy dogs through the Delta Society. I am working with her to start a "Paws for Reading" or "Reading Paws" program here at the library as soon as her dogs finish training. My questions are for those of you out there who are running successful dog/reading programs. How do you set it up? Do you do it in the children's room or community room? Do you require sign-ups or is it first come first serve? Do you pick the books to save time? Do you find this program to be beneficial? Any helpful tips will be greatly appreciated and I will be sure to compile a list. Thanks all!!

Chalese Valdez, Sutter County Library

We do our therapy dog program in the children's room, in a small program room we use to do storytimes, so it's a little private. We do require sign-ups--when we first started doing the program we had huge interest, more than we could handle, but now that we've been doing it for a few years the demand has subsided a little but we still do register to keep the number of people from getting out of control, and also to ensure that the kids are actually old enough to read and not just there to pet the dog! Over the years, the program has evolved to the point where the kids all meet together, the dog handler shares a book about dogs (usually something that talks about how to meet a new dog or about dogs as helpers or something), then the kids each take a turn reading aloud for a few minutes. We try to tell the kids to bring something to read, but most of the time they forget, so we usually pick out a variety of things for the kids to choose from if/when they forget their own books.

Overall I do think the program is beneficial--the dog owner we work with is really nice and has offered to work individually with any family that feels that their child could really benefit from a longer session with Sammy (the dog), as they usually only get a few minutes during our program. Also, we've had someone from the state board of ed.'s services for the blind approach us to work with the dog.

Good luck!

Elizabeth McKay, elizabeth@fergusonlibrary.org

There was a presentation done for our library system about the "Paws to Reading" program. I suggest you contact the presenter, Molly Johnson, for more information. She was very willing to share information and help anyone get started.

mjohnson@compassionatecanines.org

www.compassionatecanines.org

mjohnson@caninescomfort.us

www.caninescomfort.us

Julie Dassler, jdassler@mail.nfls.lib.wi.us

I know that the Ypsilanti District Library has some regular therapy dog programming. If you don't get the answers you're looking for here, you might try contacting them directly.

http://www.ypsilibrary.org/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/ydl/send_email.pl?default=General+Question%2FComment



My library does the read to the dogs and it is very successful. We only have one dog showing. We do it in the children's room but anywhere quiet. Yes sign up is best so can schedule time for each child. Kids can pick a book available or bring their own. Is it worth while? YES!!! A friend in NYC schedules the readings on a Saturday. Upstate NY has had a big success in the schools-even raised their reading levels! Good Luck and I know it will be successful.

Joyce @ Riverhead Free Library, NY

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Upcoming Workshops



Dewey Decimal Class

July 1, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cumberland County Public Library

For information or to register go to <http://host5.evanced.info/lva/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Association for Library Service to Children's (ALSC) 2010 National Institute

Taking place in Atlanta on September 23-25, 2010 at the Emory Conference Center. Registration program details and prices are now available on the ALSC Web site. Early bird registration (ends 6/30)

For more information please visit <http://www.ala.org/alscinstitute>.

Questions should be directed to ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at ksimmering@ala.org or 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2164.

Timeless Stories: Celebrating 25 Years of Children's Literature

June 28-July 2, 2010 at Shenandoah University

For more information, contact Dr. Karen Huff at khuff@su.edu or call (540) 545-7215.

Cost \$595 - \$580 depending on credit desired. \$570 to audit Plus lodging

From TV to Twitter: Media's Links to Healthy & Risky Behaviors

June 11, 2010 at Charlottesville—directions for parking will be given out after you register

Sponsored by Women's Health Virginia

Presenters will examine issues regarding media exposure through childhood, teen years and young adulthood and the impacts on wellness at those stages and through women's lives. They will also discuss ways in which the media and all who are concerned about girls and women's health can increase media's positive impact and mitigate a negative one.

Cost of the conference including materials, lunch, parking and continuing education credits is \$75. For more information and to register go to www.womenshealthvirginia.org.

Now Hear This: Audiobooks A to Z

Tuesday, June 8 (12-1 pm) Booklist—Free

In this informative hour long webinar, Booklist Media editor Sue-Ellen Beauregard and school librarian, Booklist columnist, and Booklist Online audiobook blogger Mary Burkey will be joined by representatives from Books on Tape/Listening Library, BBC Audiobooks America, and HighBridge Audio for an exciting discussion of audiobooks from A to Z, including the latest titles featuring popular readers, how to integrate audiobooks into book club promotions and discussions, finding backlist and crossover titles that fit the bill for summer listening, and much, much more.

To register for this event, go to: http://www.booklistonline.com/default.aspx?page=general_info&id=63

Creating Inviting Low Cost Teen Spaces

Wednesday, June 16 (3-4 pm) InfoPeople—Free

In this webinar, participants will: Evaluate current service for teens; Share ideas about programs for teens; Take a virtual tour of new teen spaces; Learn how to create an ambience that appeals to teens; Review seating, signage, acoustics, finish materials; and Share tips that promote teen involvement; Discover the practicalities and pitfalls of creating spaces for teens.

For more information or to attend the webinar, go to the link on the day of the program: http://infopeople.org/training/webcasts/webcast_data/286/index.html

These programs and others are listed on the Virginia Libraries Planning Calendar:

<http://host5.evanced.info/lva/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

Upcoming ALSC Workshops

Registration is now open for ALSC's Summer Online Education Courses! Courses are taught asynchronously using Moodle, an online learning community. A certificate of completion will be sent to participants upon successful completion of the course. Detailed descriptions and registration information is available on the ALSC Web site. Fees are \$95 for personal ALSC members; \$145 for personal ALA members; and \$165 for non-members. For more information, contact ALSC Deputy Director Kirby Simmering at ksimmering@ala.org.

Children with Disabilities in the Library

Children with Disabilities in the Library will discuss the individual needs of disabled children and how libraries might be able to assist each child through inclusive programming, assistive technologies, staff attitudes and legal considerations. Participants will collaboratively develop strategies for determining needs and identify resources that can be consulted when a child requires help. The instructor of the course is Katherine Todd, adjunct instructor at Manhattanville (N.Y.) College.

Information Literacy-From Preschool to High School

Learn how to conduct information literacy instruction for children of all ages. Participants will be encouraged to examine their local schools' and state's requirements pertaining to library skills, and to develop methods of using the library to complement those requirements. The course will include examples of successful programs, and participants will also discuss ways that information literacy instruction can be a useful "outreach" tool. The instructor of this course is Maryann Mori, director of the Waukeet (Iowa) Public Library.

Introduction to Graphic Novels for Children

Participants in Introduction to Graphic Novels for Children will study and discuss how graphic novels have quickly emerged as one of the best tools for motivating kids to read. Graphic novels have become essential components of many library collections, but is your library maximizing the benefits this format offers patrons? Are graphic novels even a fit for your library? This course will explore these and many other critical elements surrounding graphic novels for children. The instructor of this course is Janet Weber, youth services librarian, Tigard Public Library.

Out of this World Youth Programming

Out of this World Youth Programming is an essential course for anyone who has ever faced the challenge of providing programs that are not only fun and appealing, but also highly informative and educational. How do I fit all age levels? What is age-appropriate? How do I make old materials fresh again? Where do I even begin? This course will provide innovative ideas and suggestions on how to plan, promote, execute and evaluate your programs to work for you and your patrons.

Reading Instruction and Children's Books

Reading Instruction and Children's Books focuses on the different methodologies for reading instruction and how to determine and interpret grade-level assigned books to effectively assist patrons. Participants will then evaluate children's materials for grade-level of reading and develop strategies for clearly communicating this system to parents and teachers. The instructor of the course is Katherine Todd, adjunct instructor at Manhattanville (N.Y.) College.

The Library of Virginia will reimburse up to 12 people for each course who complete the class and share the information presented in the class with at least two other library systems. Please contact Enid at enid.costley@lva.virginia.gov if you wish to participate.

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Paws to Reading

We run a reading to dogs program--ours is called Waggin Tales. In answer to your questions:

We run it in the Children's Area of the library. It gives the children a chance to pick out a book (if they don't from our bookcart) and walk around before sitting down with a dog. It's also a great way to run the program--the more kids see it, the more popular it will become.

-We run it on a first come, first served basis. The trainers try to limit the children to about 15 minutes--usually the time for a picture book (although it took one young man about 45 to read Green Eggs and Ham!) -We leave a display of books out, and some trainers have some favorites--one even comes with the "Meet the Breed" book, because she has an unusual breed.

-I feel it is very beneficial. I had a hard time reading aloud, especially to my parents (who were teachers!) One of our trainers brought her son, and said he had never read so well aloud before. She had never heard him with that confidence or so relaxed.

If you have more questions, please let me know. I know I answer in the plural--several locations in Dakota County Libraries run it similarly.

Anne Friederichs, Anne.Friederichs@co.dakota.mn.us

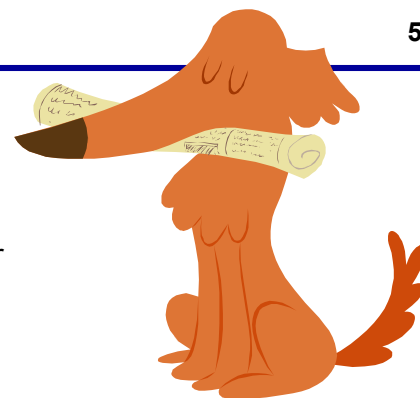
We LOVE our "Going To the Dogs" program. We have four therapy dogs who come for one hour every Thursday morning for the eight weeks of the Summer Reading Program.

- 1) They sit in the four corners of our storytime room. We have carpet squares for the dogs and chairs for the owners. The storytime room has a door that closes, but it is connected to our Children's Room.
- 2) Children do not have to sign up in advance. They sign in when they arrive (and some request a particular dog that they've come to love). Then they enjoy the Children's Room while they await their turn. This works well most of the time. When a childcare center drops in, we can have long waiting lists. We sometimes choose two of the dogs to accommodate the childcare center and cycle members of the general public through the other two dogs.
- 3) We set out a selection of beginning readers in the storytime room on a table. Children who don't already have an idea about what book they want to read may browse those for a selection.
- 4) I can't swear that the program improves anyone's reading skills in a measurable way, but it is wonderful for the library. The children adore the dogs, and the dog owners are invariably warm and encouraging. We've had children who fear dogs brought in by their parents to watch through the window in the door, then stand just inside the door, then walk up to a dog, then sit down and read. The dogs themselves are amazing. We have little kids lie and roll on them, and they've never even barked. It's easy for us, too. A teen volunteer oversees the sign-ups and cycles kids through. There are four adult owners in the room with the dogs and kids, so we go about our business. It's a win-win all over the place.

Have fun! - Ellen Heath, Easton Area Public Library, PA

I wanted to respond to your questions about the "Paws" program. Actually we do have the program here at our library, and it is fabulous. We only have one volunteer with two dogs (that trade off days they come) that comes to our library. If we could find another volunteer we would snatch them in a heartbeat. As we have to keep in mind that they are volunteers and we work around their schedules and their availability, which can be very limited. When we started the program we did not do signups and we never knew if someone would come in or not and several times no one would show up. We switched it to a sign up program and they have a certain 30 minute slot. And it has worked so much better for us. Let me back track for a minute though. If a parent came in and wanted help finding books for a struggling reader - we would jump at the chance and them about our READ dogs program. We tell them we would love to take their name and call them when we have our new schedule, to be able to give a guaranteed time for their child to read to our READ Dogs. By making this list it has helped us tremendously as we

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Paws to Reading

are able to see and track who has come in to read or how often they read - making sure that everyone is offered time their time. Currently we have 15 children on our list that want to read to our dogs. (We also try to make it so only those that are struggling sign up) Our read dogs come in twice a month and each child gets a 30 minute session to themselves. We do this in our children's activity room - which is a separate room that we do all children's programs. For our library we do have to have an employee in the room with them at all times. We have found it is better that brothers and sisters do not come in at the same time. Actually if the parents can go elsewhere and look for a book for themselves or sit and read outside that room it helps too. too many time the parents tend to talk for the kids or get after them still. Keeping it just to the child, the volunteer and her dog works best for us. If a parent wants to stay in there we just ask them not to talk.

As far as our success for the program, I will say we have two real stories of tremendous help to these children. One was a girl was two reading levels behind and struggling tremendously, we got her involved reading to our dogs and she regained the confidence and started sounding out words and was really excited to come and read to the dogs. She has improved so much over this past year she actually caught up and is now reading above her level. The volunteer we have here is actually a school teacher during the day so she is used to working with kids and is so good helping and teaching them words and pronunciation.

What can I say but dogs definitely don't correct or agitate a beginning readers, like I know we as parents do of course with all good intentions. So the program for us is a real hit. The only downfall is we have so many signed up now we can only have about half of the kids come in each month. And by giving them a certain time our schedule is filled quickly each month. Once we have the list of kids, we make the calls to schedule the appointments for it.

As I mentioned our volunteer has had some things come up at the last minute and we have had to cancel more than once a whole evening program. So having someone else available would be great. Don't know if any of this makes sense, hopefully not more confusing.

Good Luck!! Melinda Fox



We have a Reading to Rover program that we hold 2-3 times during the school year. We use the storytime room within the department and all 3 dogs with their owners are in there at the same time. The kids sign up ahead of time for one 15 minute slot and they bring their own book to read. If they arrive without a book we ask them to just grab one off of the shelf. The kids (and parents, and staff) absolutely love it and so do the dogs! If a child doesn't show up for their time slot we just ask another child that is visiting the library if they would like to read to the dog. We would have some very disappointed patrons if we discontinued this program.

Kathy Stiles

www.geneva.lib.il.us

We have done this program at our library...Manchester District library in Manchester, Mi. We had a lab come and we had it in the children's area. We had a variety of books for the children to read. Before the date we did a display of dogs who are companions and also work dogs for the disabled. We did have a sign up sheet with intervals of 10 minutes per reading. This program was very beneficial and the children loved the interaction with the dog. We will do another one in the fall because of the demand!

karen seghers



We had a dog named Gabriella come to The Brookfield Library for almost two years. She was wonderful. Her "mom" would come in with her and her dog bed and we would block off our picture book area, move a table or two around to make space and get a chair for Suzanne. We felt that doing it in our community room would make it too

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Paws to Reading

cold and uninviting. The parents would sign up their child for 15 minute intervals. We did it every other Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and informed the parents that the children should bring a book with them or they could come early to pick a book but to realize that the picture book area would be closed off to the general public. Our picture book area is an open space with no doors or walls. It is basically segregated by our book shelves. **Every evening that Gabriella was in the building, we would place a sign on our front door warning patrons that we had a dog certified through International Therapy Dogs in the building in case of fear or allergies.** When the children arrived, we would introduce both Gabriella and Suzanne to the child and parent. The parent was then asked to wander through our library and not hover over the child as he/she read to Gabriella. The child had the choice to sit in the bed with Gabriella, sit to the side or slide a chair over and read from there. Most times, if the child sat on the bed with Gabriella, she would place her head in their lap and fall asleep as the child read. Suzanne would be there but sat slightly away from the pair to give the child some "privacy" with Gabriella. We asked the parents to leave because we were trying to bring the stress levels for the child down as low as possible. We did not want the parent to correct the child if they misread a word or made them up as they went along. The point of doing this was to give children who were struggling with reading confidence in what they were doing. We had to put the program on hiatus because our Gabriella was diagnosed with cancer and Suzanne was having her treated. We hope to start up again this summer as Gabriella feels up to it. **This program was most beneficial to those children struggling to read or children reading at grade level but their fluency was not there when they read aloud.**

Hope this helps! If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.—Donna Crane

I recently started a Reading with Rover program at our library. To answer your questions...

Do you do it in the children's room or community room? We hold our program in a library meeting room. Our Children's Room is too small to accommodate children, dogs, parents and handlers.

Do you require sign-ups or is it first come first serve? We require children to register. Our program is an hour long so we have 4 twenty minute time slots with 4-5 dogs and kids for each time slot.

Do you pick the books to save time? I bring books with me but kids also bring their own. I had one boy that read and re-read Hop on Pop for the entire twenty minutes.

Do you find this program to be beneficial? Yes...great PR for the library...kids love to see the dogs (which sometimes becomes more important than the reading) We have kids of all ages and reading levels...not just kids who struggle with reading. I will probably expand the program into another room to provide more space and reading privacy.

All of our dogs are certified therapy dogs and I have their "papers" filed at the library. If the dogs are certified, the handler assumes all responsibilities if there is an "accident"

I hope this helps!- Peg Checkaj, Watertown Public Library

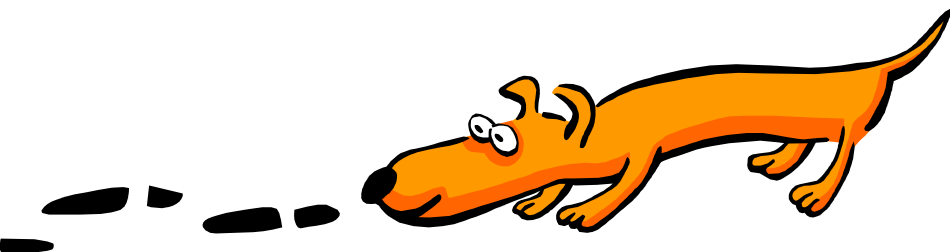
I've worked with the Delta Society for three years and while we don't get tons of kids for this, the ones that do come (well, their parents) have said that it IS very beneficial.

We require sign up ahead of time. I reserve our study rooms (2) and our program room and sometimes I'll have another animal stationed in our reading nook or at a table. So, each animal has their own space.

As the children arrive they know to start looking for a book right away. Having a selection pulled ahead of time would probably not be a bad idea. Whoever has their book chosen first gets first choice for an animal. If there are lots of kids I will give them numbers (sticky notes) to establish whose turn is next. I have some pet / dog / cat coloring books that I pull out and while they are waiting for an animal they can color in the coloring books. Each kid reads for about 10-15 minutes to an animal depending on how many kids we have. I still have some Polaroid film so

this summer the kids who come to our three Paws programs will get Polaroids of themselves reading to animals.

I hope that helps!- Suzanne Walker, Mooresville Public Library



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Paws to Reading

We have had a Paws to Read program for over a year, and it has been wildly successful. We fill up every time. Here are highlights:

We advertise the program for ages 5-10, but any child who can read is welcome. (It's not just a stop-in-and-pet-the-dog program - it's about reading.)

We work with a group of 8 therapy dogs; one of the owners coordinates all of the visits with the dog owners and even provides with a schedule so that we know which dogs are coming on which days.

The coordinator provided us with certificates and other information about the program that certifies the dogs. We felt that was very important, since anyone can purchase a dog therapy vest, put it on their dog, and claim that it is "certified."

The dogs are very special. They do not bark or jump. They are amazingly obedient. And they absolutely love children. Not every dog can be a therapy dog, so be sure and check out their credentials before you bring them into your library.

We have the program in our children's activity room. I just set up 4 or 5 chairs in each corner.

We usually have three or four dogs per session, every other Saturday from 10:00-12:00 and every other Wednesday (summer only) from 7:00-8:00. We run in 8-week cycles with a week or two off in between.

Customers sign up for a 15-minute session; walk-ins are always welcome if we have openings.

I set up a display of dog-themed books for each session, consisting of various levels beginning readers, picture books that a child can read, and easy reader nonfiction titles. Some kids bring their own books; some choose from the display.

Many of our kids are regulars. Every kid gets a certificate at his/her first session. Every time they read to a dog, they put a sticker on the certificate. Believe it or not, the kids actually remember to bring their certificates every time they come to read! The coordinator also brings gifts for the kids each time (like bookmarks, pencils, etc.) We have a digital camera and photo printer handy. If kids want their picture taken with the dog, we do that and print it for them.

We have so much positive feedback, it's really amazing. Many parents tell us that reading to the dogs has given their struggling readers more confidence and greater enjoyment of reading. Our program has been covered in the local news several times.

Good luck! I hope your program gets off the ground and goes well. Your customers will thank you!

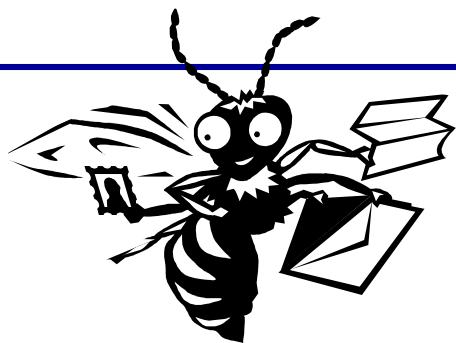
1. Ours is in the community room.
 2. We have the kids make appointments. We usually run the program from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in 15 minute appointments. We have a permission slip that parents sign preferably when making the appointment, but definitely before the appointment.
 3. We choose a variety of books for the child to choose from.
 4. The kids love the program so I'd count it as beneficial.
- Hope this helps.—Clare Meehan, Carol Stream Public Library



In my library system we have worked successfully with several groups including Paws for Reading. Some libraries have one dog and owner come to the children's area on a regular basis. Kids don't need to sign up ahead of time but there is a sign up sheet when they come in so that everyone gets their turn. We pull some books but kids can read whatever they please. At my last library we had larger events with four or five dogs in the community room. Kids sat near the dog they wanted to read to and waited their turn. Some kids read to each dog. I also had a simple craft for the kids who were waiting to read or had to wait for a sibling to read. We made dog ears (construction paper head band and the kids colored and cut out any ear they thought a dog might have - even alien dogs!).

Either way this is a wonderful program. The dogs love it and the kids are far less self-conscious than if they were

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Notes from the Desk of the Children's and Youth Services Consultant

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Jefferson Cup Committee

If you love to read and you love to read about history, consider applying for the 2011 VLA Jefferson Cup Award Committee. The application is online on the VLA website at http://www.vla.org/demo/Youth-Serv/cyart/jefferson_cup/Jefferson%20Cup%20Committee%20Application.doc

In addition to the Chair, Past Chair, and representative from VLA's Youth Services Forum, the committee consists of a representative from each of VLA's five regions. The committee meets monthly in Charlottesville.

It is a very fun and rewarding experience. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sue Trask, Jefferson Cup Committee Chair 2010
York County Public Library
757-890-5112 or trask@yorkcounty.gov

(Continued from page 8)

Paws to Reading

reading to a person. I tell them that dogs know all languages so they can read in whatever language is most comfortable for them. Oh yes - when the dog is tired the program is over even if there are children waiting but this isn't usually a problem. This is a wonderful opportunity for kids improve their reading skills. Also it warms my heart and reminds me why I became a librarian. Roxane Wilson, Sonoma County Library

We had a Delta Society dog come to our library several times last summer and it was wonderful! The dog owner sat with the dog in a corner of the children's room and it was just first come first serve. I can't say enough good things about this program. We have done this kind of program in the past. We are a small library so having the dog in the children's room has worked just fine - we usually had the dog come in on a not as busy day (say Saturday afternoons), we had kids sign up but if nobody signed up then it was first come, first served. We had the children pick their own book since that was part of the fun, them selecting at their own reading level something they thought the dog would enjoy. When we had the program the children and parents alike really enjoyed it. Unfortunately our dog handler became too busy so our program went away. -Esther Moberg, Creswell Library

Our dogs come the first Thursday of every month. We usually open up our story room, put down some mats for the kiddos, and put out a selection of dog related books (no cat books! haha). We also put out coloring pages if needed. Lately staffing issues have caused us to leave the door open and keep an eye on the room from the service desk. Most often kids just want to come in and pet the dogs, for our community a chance to see friendly dogs that aren't bred for fighting or protection is the real therapy involved. For summer reading we are having the kids create dog related crafts, either a bone to feed the dog, or a take home craft on the 2 Thursdays that overlap with the summer program. Good Luck! - Jessica Luby, jessica.luby@leesburgflorida.gov

